

REMARKS

I. Status of the Claims

Claims 1-30 are pending and under consideration. With this Amendment, claim 15 is amended, and claims 1-14 and 16-26 are canceled, without prejudice against their reintroduction into this or one or more timely filed continuation, divisional or continuation-in-part applications. Thus, after entry of this Amendment, claims 15 and 27-30 are pending and under consideration. The amendments of the claims and the various rejections raised in the Office Action are discussed in more detail, below.

II. Amendments

Claim 15 is rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claim and intervening claims from which it formerly depended.

No new matter is added by way of these amendments.

III. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph

Claims 21 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as allegedly indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the applicants regard as the invention.

Claim 21 has been canceled, and claim 15 has been rewritten as an independent claim to include all of the limitations of the base claim and intervening claims from which it formerly depended, obviating these rejections.

Thus, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

IV. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102(a) and (e), and 103(a)

Claims 1-14 and 16-26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102(a) and (e), as well as 103(a). These rejections are moot in light of the cancellation of these claims.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102(a) and (e), and 103(a).

CONCLUSION

Claim 15 is rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claim and intervening claims upon which it formerly depended. Thus, in accord with the Examiner's statement on page 3 of the Office Action, this claim should be allowable.

Further, as indicated on the Office Action Summary, claims 27-30 were found allowable.

Thus, claims 15 and 27-30 are believed to satisfy all of the criteria for patentability and are in condition for Allowance. An early indication of the same is therefore kindly requested.

No fees are believed to be due in connection with this Amendment. However, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees that may be required, or credit any overpayment, to King & Spalding LLP Deposit Account No. 50-4616.

If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is encouraged to call the undersigned at (650) 590-1932.

Respectfully submitted,
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